



**City of Kingston
Conservation Advisory Council
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 331-1682 x. 7339**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes
City Hall Conference Room 1
July 14, 2010**

Roll Call: 6:40 pm

In attendance:

Board Members

Julie Noble (Chair)
Felipa Gaudet (Secretary)
Judith Deming
Sophie Dolamore
Valeria Gheorghiu
Elizabeth Higgins
Allison Taylor

Guests:

Casey Schwartz
Renno Budziak – from the Town of Ulster –
is interested in forming a CAC
Steve Johnson – Kingston Planning Board

Public Comment – There was no public comment

Approval of Minutes

Approval June Meeting minutes – Valeria made a motion to accept the June minutes. Julie seconded. All in favor.

Old Business

1. Climate Analyst
 - a. The other two communities (Hudson and Red Hook) received funding from the government for this position. They have hired Sustainable Hudson Valley as their Climate Analyst. Melissa Everett contacted Julie expressing interest in Sustainable Hudson Valley being hired by the City of Kingston for the position.
 - b. Rich Schiafo and David Tracy have expressed interest in the position as well.
 - c. Liz expressed that there is value to hiring a person specifically for Kingston. All were in agreement.
2. NYSERDA update
 - a. Meredith Nierenberg who works for NYSERDA- Compiling baseline information data – using the 2007 Wendell Energy Report. Currently gathering data on buildings and vehicles that are being used by the city.
3. Climate Smart Pledge
 - a. Public meeting preparation: outreach and agenda
 - i. Julie sent an e-mail to all constituents about plan for future meetings.

- ii. Judith inquired about tentative dates. Valeria suggested the end of August would give us time to prepare. We should include recap of pledge for newcomers, structure for general meetings (quarterly) and developing new questions for focus groups. She suggested that by the following meeting, all the groups should select two members for the Green Task Force.
- iii. Valeria knows someone at the Workers' Rights Law Center who can translate the pledge into Spanish and will work on getting it translated.
- iv. Liz suggested having groups present information related to the pledge. Meredith from NYSERDA could be asked if she can come to share findings. Liz suggested Arthur present "Safe Routes to Schools". Julie suggested Sustainable Hudson Valley's 10% program. Steve could present info about the Federal money that the city is receiving for recycling and solid waste.
- v. Valeria shared concerns that too many presenters could overwhelm the participants. She suggested leaving it to the groups to choose presenters that would match their objectives/focus. Julie suggested only those people who are involved in projects that are pertinent for all groups should present to the entire group of participants.
- vi. Judith believed that it would be beneficial to include a comprehensive list of projects that are already in progress within the city that relate to the goals of the pledge.
- vii. Allison mentioned that Jeanne Jacobs is interested in having a member of the Kingston CAC on her show. Her show is Wednesday nights 8-8:30 Jacobs Live People to People. This would be good for outreach and should be explored to be scheduled a week before our meeting.
- viii. Allison mentioned that Andi Turco-Levin is interested in having a CAC member speak at her ward meeting (Ward 1).
- ix. Materials to prepare: overview of pledge, examples of what is happening in Kingston, overview of what will happen, PowerPoint presentation from first meeting.
- x. Liz suggested having the materials on the CAC website and send a link to the site.
- xi. Steve Johnson suggested contacting Kingston Council of Churches to distribute information.
- xii. Renno Budziak suggested contacting Chamber of Commerce to get on their meeting schedule. Contacting the business associations would be helpful. KUBA and BAK are hosting a mixer at LGBTQ on Wednesday, July 21st between 5:30-7:30. CAC members will plan on attending.
- xiii. Plans were made to go to the following Ward meetings to share about the pledge:
 - 1. Ward 1 – Felipa and Sophie
 - 2. Ward 2 – Valeria
 - 3. Ward 3 – Julie
 - 4. Ward 4 – Julie
 - 5. Ward 5 – Julie
 - 6. Ward 6 – Julie
 - 7. Ward 7 – Liz
 - 8. Ward 8 – Gregg
 - 9. Ward 9 – Allison and Judith
- xiv. Valeria suggested having the participants share what they are working on already in relation to the pledge and proposals for projects for the city to work on to further the goals of the pledge and write suggestions for guidelines for the city to follow (ex. planning board and permeable pavement surfaces). Renno suggested the need for these recommendations to extend beyond the city and to the county. He cited the example of parking lot design elements.
- xv. Valeria suggested outreach to the city itself. Sue Cahill and members of the Planning Board, Steve Finkle from Economic Development, members of the Zoning Board,

members of the Department of Public Works, city engineer, Kevin from Parks and Recreation.

- xvi. Discussion about meeting dates. Liz shared concerns that August may be a difficult month for planning a meeting. Valeria shared concerns that by postponing the meeting, we will lose momentum. Felipa shared that Jen Schwartz's students' research will be complete at the end of the summer. She shared the plan that was discussed during June's meeting to have a meeting in August and one in September. The September meeting was supposed to be the one in which the data from the Bard students' research would be shared with the focus groups. Felipa suggested having one meeting in mid-September since the meeting for August would be scheduled so late. In this manner, Jennifer Schwartz's research could help guide the focus groups. Valeria suggested that we continue with the plan to have a meeting in August and then one in September in order to continue momentum. Discussion ensued regarding the cost/benefit of having two meetings a month apart. A planning meeting will occur on July 29 at 6:30. The public visioning meeting will be scheduled for August 19th from 5-7. Julie will check on availability for rooms for that date.
- xvii. Julie will send the Save the Date e-mail for the Second Public Visioning Meeting to the participants from last meeting, the Bard students, and any other interested parties.

4. Website update

- a. Felipa shared the progress that had been made on the CAC website. The site is expected to be available to the public by the end of next week.
- b. The following information will be provided:
 - i. Julie will provide Felipa with the History of our CAC and the Streetscape grant. She will also explore the regulations for donations and opening a bank/ Paypal account.
 - ii. Liz and Sophie will e-mail their bios.
 - iii. Everyone will send links regarding "Energy Efficiency Tips" and "Green Building Tips"
 - iv. Valeria will send information regarding "Safe Routes to Schools" and the chicken brochure.
 - v. Information pertinent to the pledge will be sent to Felipa to be posted.
- c. Liz shared concerns about criteria for links from other organizations posted on the CAC website. She shared that they could be difficult to maintain and was concerned about how we would determine what to include. The group decided to include links to organizations whose work relates to the Kingston CAC. For example, animal legislation, the pledge, etc.
- d. "Safe Routes to Schools" or "Streetscape" grant were discussed as the innovation for the home page.
- e. Sophie shared that she created the City of Kingston CAC Facebook page. She asked the group members to send her pertinent information for her to include on the Facebook page. The following were discussed as possibilities:
 - i. Meetings in the general region that would be of interest (ex. GPS training, community gardens meetings, etc.)
 - ii. News articles that would be of interest.
- f. As of now, Sophie is the only person who is able to post comments. The group expressed interest in being able to comment on the site. Sophie will change the settings to make that possible.
- g. The Facebook page is linked to Twitter, but more experimentation needs to be done to ensure that it is working well.

Announcements/Communications

1. Sophie has been officially appointed to the CAC by the mayor. Her term expires December 31, 2011.
2. Next regular Monthly Board Meeting: August 11, 2010
3. A planning meeting for the Second Public Visioning Meeting will occur on July 29 at 6:30. The meeting will be scheduled for August 19th from 5-7.

Reports

1. EMC reports - Kevin Greiser – Trees for Tribs – Creek Week September 9-17, any CAC that is doing any work surrounding watersheds would be welcome to share with public along with other CAC's.
2. Planning Board Meeting Reports – Julie and Allison shared about the past two planning board meetings. Allison shared about Sailor's Cove development. The Planning Board dismissed the proposal due to the lack of follow through with the environmental impact statement. All members were impressed with the Planning Board's commitment toward the environment. Julie shared the importance of establishing CAC recommendations to the Planning Board.
3. General Government/Auditing/Public Safety Committee Reports – none
4. Laws and Rules Meeting, Cats update – Jeanne Jacobs shared that some residents are concerned that the city **has city's** Shane Gallo will call Allison. Plan went through with our recommendations.
5. Assigned dates for rest of 2010 Planning board, Gen. Gov't meetings.
6. Valeria suggested that whomever attends meetings send a brief synopsis to the group via e-mail prior to our meeting and other members could ask questions/clarify points at our meetings.
7. Casey attended the Champlain Hudson Power Express meeting. More community meetings will follow. Scenic Hudson has been following the issue. A representative from Woodstock CAC was there and he brought up questions as well. The impact upon the grid will not be significant. His calculations for the amount of the energy that will be transmitted was a quarter of the estimate given by the company. Blackstone group is investing heavily in the project. Media coverage by WAMC was more detailed than Daily Freeman. Although the company claims that the energy will come from solar and wind sources, no source of power exists as of now and there is no guarantee that the power source will be renewable. Concerns were also raised about the environmental impacts and the financial cost of the electricity that would be transported.

Liz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Julie seconded.

Adjournment: 9:12 pm